

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 33 (Canceled)

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34. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit device comprising:

an ~~commissioning unit with~~ article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, the article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal, articles to be commissioned being storeable on said article shafts, each of said article shafts having a stopping and dispensing article device at one of its longitudinal ends that is a lower end and can be filled with new articles at its other, higher longitudinal end on a bay filling side;

an article bay;

a traveling bay-storage and retrieval unit associated with said article bay, said traveling bay-storage and retrieval unit having an article-handling device that is movable in space with along the article bay, said article handling device including a stack-of-articles support, which to fix a stack of articles without a magazine, said stack -of-articles support can be positioned in an essentially vertical position with a correspondingly vertical stack of articles picked up in the support at each higher longitudinal end of said article shaft on said bay filling side, said stack-of-articles support having one of a lower or upper individual article ejector, which is displaceable in the a transverse direction of the stack and is, said lower individual article ejector for individually pushing a lowermost article of said stack of articles of said support into a selected one of said article shafts, said upper individual article ejector or having a stack-of-articles holding-up device for pushing up and by which the stack of articles, individually a

20 topmost article of a pushed-up, obliquely positioned stack of articles reaches a selected article shaft under the force of gravity or by said upper individual article ejector, ~~said upper individual article ejector~~ being displaceable in a transverse direction of the stack.)

35. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support with said lower individual article ejector has a vertically adjustable guide for passing a lower individual article to be pushed out.

36. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support has a pair of stack-of-articles clamping plates with a stack-of-articles pick-up and with a transversely adjustable longitudinal individual article clamping plate for elastically clamping a picked-up stack of articles in a transverse direction of the stack between said pair of clamping plates.

37. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support is held in an essentially vertical position ~~in each operating position~~ and has a doubly sloped angle sheet iron, wherein a said stack of articles picked up in the support is laterally fixed in the root of the angle sheet iron by the force of gravity and the stack of article articles is supported on the a bottom side either on said individual article ejector or on said stack-of-articles holding-up device ~~that can be pushed up.~~

38. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said article-handling device has both a stack-of-articles support, for filling the said automatic commissioning unit, and for removing removes and transporting transports a stack of articles from and to storage areas, and said article-handling device includes an article-handling unit, which is movable in space, for the removal of on said article-handling device and removes articles stack by stack and for the transport of transports articles stack by stack from an acceptance region, or from and to a supply bay, wherein said article-handling unit and said stack-of-articles support can be aligned and positioned in relation to one another in a vertical position, and said stack of articles can be picked up on by said article-handling unit and can be transferred into the said stack-of-articles support by an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher.

39. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein said article-handling unit of said bay-storage and retrieval unit has a bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up, an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher, an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher, and an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate, which has a row of spring-tensioned fingers and is located in parallel to and opposite said stack-of-articles pick-up, said longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate and presses in a clamped state a stack of articles picked up directly against said stack-of-articles pick-up in a transverse direction of the stack by the longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate.

40. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said bay-storage and retrieval unit can be displaced via a guide or rail system from and to at least one supply bay, and can be positioned at a selected lateral end of a shaft of said supply bay, ~~wherein at least one single~~ said guide or rail system has switches;

5 a stack of articles to be handled is or can be arranged in each selected shaft, and the stack of articles reaches an aligned article pick-up of the article-handling unit by displacement of the articles in the direction of the stack, or conversely, it the stack of articles reaches the selected shaft from the article pick-up, wherein the guide or rail system also has switches.

41. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34 ~~40~~, wherein the supply bay is a higher-level supply bay, ~~which is associated with said automatic commissioning unit and is located in the vicinity of adjacent~~ said article bay of the automatic commissioning unit.

42. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein the supply bay is a buffer associated with ~~the said acceptance department region~~ located in the vicinity of adjacent an unpacking station, ~~at which~~ said stacks of articles are unpacked from a collective box and are put together at said unpacking station.

43. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 42, wherein ~~said unpacked stacks of articles are put together on a stack-of-articles stacker plate, which has~~

a shape of a part of at least one bay level of the supply bay;

5 said bay-storage and retrieval unit being displaceable for taking over an article by displacement also movement to the stack-of-articles stacker plate via a rail or guide system and being positionable at this stack-of-articles stacker plate.

44. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 43, wherein said stack-of-articles stacker plate is also displaceable, or rotatable ~~especially displaceable on a conveyor belt or on a chute and/or rotatably around a said vertical axis by preferably 90° or 180° for positioning with respect~~ to the bay-storage and retrieval unit.

45. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 44, wherein a hand or foot switch is provided for adjusting a position said stack-of-articles stacker plate.

46. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 43, wherein an automatic unpacking unit with a gripping arm is provided, which grasps a preferably ~~horizontal~~ stack of articles from an opened collective box and deposits it the stack of articles on said stack-of-articles stacker plate.

47. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 40, wherein the supply bay has angle sheet irons arranged next to one another in ~~one or more~~ planes arranged one on top of another.

5 48. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein said angle sheet iron ~~is~~ irons are is doubly sloped and forms form a chute that has a rectangular cross section and is oblique in the a longitudinal direction, wherein the ~~a~~ root of the angle is sheet irons are located at the lowest point in each cross section over the a length of the chute, and the two surfaces of the legs of the angle sheet irons are stop faces for a picked-up stack of articles and, furthermore, a detachable, preferably depressible article stop is provided at the a lowest end of the chute.

49. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 48, wherein the a slope of the chute is approx. 20° in the longitudinal direction and the a slope of the a base of the chute is approx. 15° in the a transverse direction.

50. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 48, wherein a stack of articles picked up in the chute has a longitudinal fixing aid, which presses the stack of articles against the article stop.

51. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein said longitudinal fixing aid is a rolling cart.

52. A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein the longitudinal fixing aid is a longitudinally adjustable article stop.

53. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein said longitudinal fixing aid is a spring-pretensioned article stop.

54. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein the supply bay is a double bay, which is arranged back to back.

55. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein the article-handling unit of the bay-storage and retrieval unit has a said coupling pin, which can be caused to engage a corresponding recess acting as a centering aid at a selected shaft of a supply bay.

56. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim ~~34~~48, wherein the article-handling unit has a small roller stop, which can be caused to engage the ~~stack-of-articles~~ article stop of a shaft for releasing or depressing the stack-of-articles stop, wherein the ~~a stop of the article-handling unit may also be the~~ is an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher itself.

57. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein the said stack-of-articles pick-up of the said bay-storage and retrieval unit, the shaft and the angle sheet iron of the said higher-level supply bay, a buffer and a stack-of-articles stacker plate at an acceptance region have the same designs in terms of length, width, ~~wherein said higher-level supply bay and/or said buffer may also have different sizes, especially in width.~~

58. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein said article-handling unit is fastened via a pivot axis on a carriage transversely displaceable on a transverse rail with a slope in the ~~depth of the shaft or in the~~ a longitudinal direction of the a shaft of the supply bay, ~~especially approx. 20°~~, wherein said transverse rail is rigidly or telescopically fastened on a vertically displaceable lifting carriage of said bay-storage and retrieval unit.

59. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 36, wherein said article-handling device is divided into two parts and has a separate, vertically adjustable stack-of-articles pick-up unit with a plurality of angle sheet irons of a type, position and size of said stack-of-articles pick-up and of the supply bay, which has at least one said-adjustable second longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher of its own, wherein a plurality of stacks of articles can be conveyed by the stack-of-articles pick-up unit from a buffer or from the stack-of-articles pick-up to a higher-level supply bay and loaded and removed; and

a separate, vertically adjustable article bay loading unit, which is in turn divided into two parts and has, ~~on the one hand~~, a vertically adjustable individual stack-of-articles pick-up with the said longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher and with another transverse stack-of-articles pusher, ~~said vertically adjustable article bay loading unit includes and, on the other hand~~, a gripping unit or stack-of-articles support, ~~which is movable in space~~, with a bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up, a longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate with an angle stop and with an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher as well as with the said individual article

15 ejector, wherein a single selected stack of articles can be conveyed by said article bay loading unit from the supply bay said higher-level supply bay, said buffer or from said stack-of-articles stacker plate of the acceptance region to the automatic commissioning unit and be loaded there individually into a selected article shaft of said automatic commissioning unit.

60. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 36, wherein for loading the stack of articles into said automatic commissioning unit, said stack of articles can be removed by said individual stack-of-articles pick-up from the supply bay in the longitudinal direction of the stack by displacement with said longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher and can be conveyed to said automatic commissioning unit and it can be positioned and individually loaded after transfer or transverse displacement of said stack of articles from said individual stack-of-articles pick-up by said additional transverse stack-of-articles pusher onto said bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up of said aligned gripping unit or stack-of-articles support and after clamping of the entire stack of articles in said transverse direction of the stack by said longitudinal clamping plate having spring-tensioned fingers at said selected article shaft of said
10 automatic commissioning unit by moving the gripping unit.

61. (Original) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 59, wherein said gripping unit or stack-of-articles support is fastened via a said axis of rotation to a vertically adjustable lifting carriage, which is in turn vertically displaceable on a vertical bar of said bay-storage and retrieval unit, which said vertical bar is articulated on the bottom side around at least one axis.

62. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 5961, wherein said vertical bar has a shorter length than said a vertical bar on which said individual stack-of-articles pick-up and said stack-of-articles pick-up unit are vertically displaceable.

63. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein at least one separate another bay-storage and retrieval unit is provided, which is associated with a stack-of-articles stacker plate at an acceptance region;

5 a buffer and/or a higher-level supply bay or can be ~~displaced thereto~~ moved relative to the another bay-storage and retrieval unit and can take over or transfer stacks of articles there, wherein the ~~separate another~~ bay-storage and retrieval unit has exclusively a stack-of-articles pick-up for a plurality of stacks of articles, ~~which is associated with said automatic commissioning unit.~~

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Canceled)

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67. (New) A commissioning system for a plurality of articles, the system comprising:
a plurality of article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, each of said plurality of article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal to have an upper and lower end, said (each of said plurality of article shafts being holdable of a plurality of the articles);

5 a cart horizontally movable along said plurality of article shafts;
an article loader vertically movable on said cart, (said loader being holdable of a stack
of the articles in a substantially vertical position), vertical movements of said article loader on
said cart and horizontal movements of said cart selectively arrange said article loader at each
of said plurality of article shafts, said article loader including (an ejector movable in a transverse
10 direction to the stack of articles) and individually ejecting one of the articles from the stack of
articles into a selected one of said article shafts.

68. (New) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

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said ejector is arranged at a bottom of said article loader and moves a lowermost article
of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said
article shafts;

5 said article shafts are sloped to cause the articles to slide from said upper end to said
lower end of said each shaft by gravity.

69. (New) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a top of said article loader and moves an uppermost article
of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said
article shafts;

5 a lifter is arranged in said article loader to lift the stack of articles to said ejector.